

# VOTE TO STOP ~~COP CITY~~

## Vote to Stop Cop City Coalition

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### **NEW: Vote to Stop Cop City Coalition Collects Over 100,000 Signatures in Support of Ballot Referendum, Calls for Free & Fair Verification Process**

**Atlanta, GA** — Today, after two months of petition-gathering, the Vote to Stop Cop City Coalition announced the collection of 104,000 signatures in support of a citywide referendum on Cop City. This marks the most successful citizen-driven referendum effort to date. And we're still not done.

“We’ve collected over 104,000 raw signatures around the City of Atlanta — from Southwest to Buckhead — and the people have decided. Cop City must be put on the ballot,” **said Mary Hooks, Tactical Lead for the Referendum Coalition.**

Originally, the coalition had planned to turn in their signatures today, August 21. However, in recent days, the coalition began to hear from reporters and sources inside City Hall that the City of Atlanta is planning to argue for a higher-than-previously-reported legal minimum signature count for ballot access. More concerning were reports that they also plan to utilize “[signature match](#)” — an archaic and widely abandoned [tool of voter suppression](#) that has been widely condemned across the political spectrum, including by the Republican-controlled Georgia State Legislature — in their verification process.

“We’ve laid out what the law calls for and what morality calls for — it’s up to the City now to honor the will of the voters,” **added Kurt Kastorf, Counsel for the Referendum.**

Given the City of Atlanta’s open and ongoing hostility to the Cop City Vote referendum effort, the coalition wants to leave no doubt as to the will of Atlanta voters. The coalition will continue collecting signatures, using a time extension granted by U.S. Federal District Judge Mark Cohen in [Baker v. Atlanta](#) which allows us to continue to petition-gather through September 23, 2023. In addition, the coalition will consider upcoming opportunities for nonviolent, direct actions to direct the peoples’ frustration with council’s obstruction of the democratic process.

“If the City needs to see a demonstration of the people’s commitment to this issue, we’re happy to provide one,” **said Kamau Franklin, Community Movement Builders.**

In light of these developments, we have canceled today’s press conference and elected to use the extension granted by Judge Cohen in order to submit as many signatures as possible. It is imperative that the City of Atlanta immediately share their plans for a transparent, fair, and objective verification process. Read our [interested parties memo](#) for best practices.

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